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This is where the battlers are going to come into their own, and although I expect Bobby Robson to name an unchanged team I wouldn't mind seeing Remi Moses in there.

Peter Shilton will have a lot more to do than he did against Finland, but once again so much is going to depend on Bryan Robson. He's the man who You've got to fancy England's

makes England tick.
You've got to fancy England's
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They look at themselves as the
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I can't see them blowing it this time.

Liam Brady (white shirt, left) and Peter Shilton (right) will both have their work

Mark Hughes scores for Wales against England. Now he's got to gun down

N. IRELAND v FINLAND

INLAND have already beaten Northern Ireland, but don't ask me how they did it. As they showed against England,

they're no up and coming Denmark.

I fully expect the Irish to take their revenge, and in Norman Whiteside have just the man to give the Finns all sorts of

Like Mark Hateley he's big and fearless and if he puts it about the Finnish defence

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Ian Stewart will also be a key figure,
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It's too early yet to say if Billy Bingham's lads will qualify for the Finals. I think England will take one of the Group Three qualifying spots, so it's between Northern Ireland and Rumania for the other.



WALES v ICELAND

FTER losing their first two qualifying games in Iceland and Spain it looks as though the Welsh have already missed the boat to Mexico.

I'd love to be proved wrong, and if anyone is going to make me eat my words it will be lan Rush and Mark Hughes.

The Welsh are going to need a mountain of goals if they're going to have any chance of getting back into contention.

There's no point in looking to just edge Iceland out when they meet next Wednesday at Ninian Park. They've got to smash them out of sight and hope to sneak in through the back door on goal difference.

HOW THEY STAND.

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st loeland was a real cracker sinst the Spaniards certainly

ten have never struggled to score goals and calibre of Brady, Stapleton and Robinson ways cause problems.

n't got an international class goalkeeper, so a epend on how well David O'Leary and Mark keep out Jesper Olsen and his speedy little

Republic of Ireland have got a better team than h nations but they always make life so hard for

have a little more faith in their own ability, lough they're in a very tough group I think they fexico.



VERY tough game for England. I expect them to come away from Istanbul with at least a point, but it will be no picnic.
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HOW THEY STAND...

Group 6 Group 3 ENGLAND

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Group 7
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2 0 0 2 0 4 0 SCOTLAND SPAIN ICELAND WALES

A 3-0 VICTORY at Molineux pushes West Ham to second place behind Liverpool. It is Wolves' 16th League game in a row without a win. The only other away win in the top three divisions this Saturday is that of Oxford, who beat Port Vale 3-1 in Division Three. A crowd of more than 30,000 at Stamford Bridge see Chelsea beat Newcastle 4-0, including a couple of goals from David Speedie. Despite England's 4-0 midweek victory in Luxembourg, they go out of the European Championship when

Denmark pull off a 2-0 win in Greece. Sheffield Wednesday transfer England Youth striker Tony Simmons to QPR for £50,000. In the Scottish Premier Division, Dundee get their first win (3-1) in seven League visits

5 YEARS AGO

TOP of the table Manchester United are beaten 2-0 by arch rivals Manchester City at Maine Road. Tony Henry and Michael Robinson are the scorers. Nottingham Forest suffer their biggest League defeat for nearly six years when they go down 4-1 at Southampton. This followed the strain of a midweek European Cup trip to Rumania in which Forest had won through to the Quarter-Finals. Lee Frost scores a hat-trick for Chelsea in a 7-3 Second Division win over Orient at Brisbane Road. In midweek, Bob Latchford also gets a hat-trick as Everton beat Leeds United 5-1 at Goodison. This was only a day after the Leeds board had given manager Jimmy Adamson two months to produce better results. Tony Woodcock is transferred from Nottingham Forest to Cologne for a fee of £650,000.

MANCHESTER CITY go top of the First Division when a goal by Rodney Marsh gives them a 1-0 victory over Stoke. Liverpool are surprisingly beaten 3-1 at home by Arsenal, who are near the foot of the table. Alan Ball scores two of the visitors' goals. Manchester United still lead the Second Division following what is only their second defeat of the season — going down 1-0 to Bristol City in front of a crowd of more than 28,000 at Ashton Gate. In the League Cup, Fourth Division Chester produce the shock result of the season by beating First Division Leeds 3-0. Terry McDermott joins Liverpool from Newcastle for a

IRWING



Spare a thought for Distillery full-back ANTON ROGAN, who was on the verge of signing for Celtic when he broke an ankle in an Ulster Cup match against Crusaders. eltic boss DAVIE HAY has now shelved the signing until the talented teenager is back



COTLAND manager JOCK STEIN was overflowing in his praise of Celtic's PAUL McSTAY the other week when he said the 19-year-old midfield star (right) was "destined for greatness."

But it would seem that not everyone is quite so keen on the man valued at more than £1 million by his club.

Paul's 14-year-old brother Raymond, for instance, could never be accused of brotherly

Claims McStay minor: "Paul is so hopeless in the air that I have to take him into the back garden to practise his heading.



win a place at the centre of the lpswich defence this season — and he doesn't mind!

Butcher has been moved to left-back to make way for 19-year-old IAN CRANSON and Ipswich boss BOBBY FERGUSON believes the change will make the 26 times capped star an even better player.

'Terry has got a tremendous left foot and a brilliant

'In fact, the move has improved Terry because he's

already picked up an extra half yard's pace."

And of Under-21 star Cranson, Ferguson says: "I've no worries about this lad. He's one of the most naturally gifted defenders I've seen and is already one of the

SHOCK MOVE

NGLAND centre-half TERRY BUTCHER can't

football brain," says Ferguson. "He's just as effective at left-back and it won't affect his international career because BOBBY ROBSON knows all about his ability.

Over 18!

goalkeeper ALEX

ANCHESTER City

WILLIAMS has set himself

a target of keeping 18 clean sheets in the League

Explains the England Under-21 international

(left): "If I can manage to

achieve that total, it will guarantee City at least 18

score just one goal in all

points. If we manage to

those games, it would mean 54 points."

this season.

foundations of our team.

COVENTRY striker TERRY GIBSON is hoping he doesn't have one of those complaints even your best friend won't tell you about.

For in the past 14 months. Gibson has had nine different partners in the Coventry attack — DAVE BAMBER, NICKY PLATNAUER, DAVE BENNETT, TOMMY LANGLEY, MICK FERGUSON, BOB LATCHFORD, GRAHAM WITHEY, BRIAN KILCLINE and now CYRILLE REGIS.

Jokes Terry: "I'm hoping for a lasting relationship with Cyrille!



IN last week's issue, Aston Villa's GORDON COWANS (left) claimed that MARK WALTERS was the man who most frequently won the yellow shirt awarded to the worst player in training.

Not so. I have it on good authority that Villa's most popular man in vellow is a certain Gordon Cowans!

loved GORDON McQUEEN's comment after his first game of the season for Manchester United in the 5-1 thrashing of West Ham the other

"We got so slack in the last ten minutes that REMI MOSES stopped tackling my man and I even had to flick the ash off my own cigar," cracked the big Scotsman.

FORMER Kilmarnock striker EDDIE MORRISON has returned to Rugby Park as the club's new manager. He takes over from JIM CLUNIE, who resigned in September.

MIDDLESBROUGH defender MICK SAXBY is enjoying a new lease of life after α make-or-break knee operation.

The 27-year-old defender was ready to quit the game last year and had even discussed an

insurance settlement.

"But then I thought of the prospect of going on the dole and gambled instead on a fourth operation on my knee. Luckily, it seems to have done the trick."

Billy's not so bold

Oxford's BILLY HAMILTON has backed out of a goal race with team-mate JOHN ALDRIDGE, the man accompanying him at the top of the Second Division goalscorer's chart.

....

Says Hamilton: "John is more of a natural scorer than me. If



FROM THE EDITOR'S OFFICE

King's Reach Tower, Stamford Street, London SE1 9LS

HOPE SHOOT can fix it for 18-year-old Ian Douglas, of 71 Moss Lane, Maghull, in

Ian is a goalkeeper who joined Fulham as an apprentice professional in 1982.

He signed full pro early this year and made several appearances in the reserve side.

Ian takes up the story: "Manager Ray Harford gave me a free transfer at the end of last season because I was too old for the youth team and there was no place for me in the reserves.

"I wrote over 50 letters to clubs asking for a trial. Eventually Watford manager Graham Taylor invited me to Vicarage Road.

"I played in the reserves, but when Watford signed

Tony Coton they couldn't offer me terms.

"I then spent a month at Blackburn and played in the reserves. Although all the managers I was with were impressed, none could offer me a contract."

Now Ian is on the dole and desperate to find a club that will give him the chance to break into full-time

"SHOOT is my last hope," he writes. "I know most of the managers and coaches read your magazine so

"Ray Harford, Graham Taylor and Bobby Saxton of Blackburn would give references if required.

I've made some inquiries and have been told Ian is a keeper with great potential. Unfortunately, those clubs he's played for haven't got the resources to take on more players than they need.

Come on you managers . . . why not give Ian a chance? What have you got to lose?

You never know. He could be another Neville Southall, who was once playing in non-League obscurity

Write to SHOOT MANY readers like Paul Kulyn, of

Tintern Avenue, Milnsbridge, Huddersfield, West Yorkshire, want to know how they can get in touch with our Star Writers, Bryan Robson, Ian Rush and Charlie

I am afraid we cannot reveal private addresses, but if you send all letters c/o SHOOT I'll ensure they are forwarded to the players

Mystery man

J IM HUGHES of Allenhill Park, Lurgan, Co. Armagh, in Northern Ireland, wants me to solve a mystery.
"In SHOOT issue dated 2nd

June, 1984, you mentioned that a player who had been rejected by Charlton, shown the door at Fulham and kicked out by Spurs and is now a First Division star, would be featured in the next

"Unfortunately I couldn't get that issue and have been intrigued ever since to discover who you were talking about.

"Can you put me out of my

Of course, Jim. The player concerned was Trevor Putney (below), now of Ipswich.



"Looks like we're in for another season

3

3

Shoot View...Shoot View...Shoot View...Shoot View...Shoot View...Shoot View...

lide open

HILE it's sad that the great Liverpool lie in an unaccustomed position in the middle of the table, it's refreshing to see clubs that were formerly the 'supporting cast" of the First Division now jostling for the top of the bill spot.

We've heard so many people complain that the Anfield club's dominance over the past three seasonswas bad for the game and to blame for the declining interest -

The evidence supplied this season certainly supports that view. Turnstiles have been clicking faster at First Division grounds as the Championship race

unfolds as the most open for years.

Even newly-promoted Sheffield Wednesday are in there with a chance against established First Division clubs such as Arsenal, Spurs, Everton and Manchester United.

And there's always the nagging feeling that Liverpool, with lan Rush back from injury and regaining his deadly goal-touch, could stage a sensational comeback and hold on to that title trophy for a fourth successive time!

What a fascinating season it's turning out to be - a real turning point for the game weall love!

Welsh woe

MARK HOURIHAN, of The Square, Dinas Powys, South Glamorgan, a regular SHOOT reader, asks: "You don't publish much about Welsh clubs? Have you something against us?"

Certainly not, Mark, Quite simply, apart from Wrexham's magnificent performances in Europe, there's not been much to write about.

However, we do hope to feature a special spotlight on Wales in the

 Don't miss lan Rush's World Cup warning on pages 12 and 13.



NGLAND launched their World Cup campaign in sensational style. A 5-0 thrashing of Finland was a dream start for Bobby Robson's men.

Now, the action switches from Wembley to Istanbul. where England play Turkey on 14th November.

SHOOT has promised to support England all the way to Mexico. Dossier No. 1 was a huge success.

We proudly present Dossier No. 2, which brings you the latest opinion from the England camp, a special report on Turkey, colour pictures of the England heroes and all the facts to make SHOOT readers the best informed football followers in Europe ...



labelled "winners" in the m past only to disappoint their supporters in the next game with a poor performance.

Remember that 0-0 draw with Northern Ireland in Belfast last year? Our fans were not happy with that, but a few days later we really gave them something to cheer when we beat Scotland 2-0 at Wembley. Poor one moment, good the next.

The England team that narrowly beat East Germany — a better performance than we received credit for - and thrashed Finland has the makings of turning into a World Cup winning outfit.

It's beginning to look settled, more like a club side, with seven or eight positions more or less sorted

What I mean is you wouldn't expect to see an England team

Tony Woodcock, John Barnes, me and maybe Mark Hateley, now that he has proved his worth as a goalscorer.

If I'm a bit cautious about Mark, it's only that I don't want to build him two goals and Sammy Lee scored up like some people have been in the past few weeks.

Favourite

I'm not writing off Paul Mariner. He might not be every fan's favourite they do resort to hurling oranges. I England player but the team rate

Paul Mariner will make a great back-up for Mark.

This game against Turkey is crucial to us. If we can get our away record going in Istanbul before that

hostile bunch of fans, we should go

I'm confident we can get a result out there whatever the reception. Remember how well we played in Greece just after Bobby Robson took over. Tony Woodcock hammered his first for England.

Most of the England team have enjoyed the experience of playing in front of fiercely patriotic fans hundreds of miles from home.

They won't intimidate me even if like Jaffas!

This is the best England team I've I'll be honest. I hope Mark Hateley makes the grade. That being so, way to Mexico way to Mexico.



SPOTLIGHT ON TURKEY

UPP Derwall, mastermind behind West Germany's success in recent years, has been drafted in by Turkey to outwit England's manager Bobby Robson.

Turkey's national manager Condan Tarhan says: "There is no better man in Europe than Derwall to give us a chance of qualifying for the World Cup.

"We will be on course if we can get a result against England in

Both Tarhan and Derwall are impressed with the England team Robson has built.

But what of Turkey? Who are the players most likely to trouble Bobby Robson's men?

Turkey, who have been playing international football for more

than 60 years, have gone through

could be provided by the striking

duo of Ilyas and Selcuk, who both

Selcuk is a tricky winger who

notched two goals in Turkey's fine 3-1 win over Austria a year ago,

play for the Fenerbahce club in

big changes in the past year. The main threat to England

After watching them beat Finland at Wembley, Tarhan said: "England were so perfect, so overwhelming that we could not see the Finns at all.

Derwall was even more enthusiastic: "England are much more dynamic than in the 1982 World Cup Finals.

'The difference is Hateley, along with the improvement in





IS WORLD CLASS'

C NGLAND's Kenny Sansom has emerged as a full-back of world class talent this season.

The 26-year-old Arsenal defender has fulfilled all the massive potential he was said to have when he joined Arsenal

Results and Fixtures Group 3

from Crystal Palace for £1,350,000 in August, 1980.

He is due to win his 47th cap against Turkey and could well go on to join the elite group of players who have made 100 appearances for England.

England captain Bryan Robson, one of Kenny's biggest fans, says: "He's a world class defender. By his own standards, he wasn't playing as well as he can a year ago but he's blossomed into a great player this season.





England face missile atta

E NGLAND will have to cop with far more than the 11 opposition players in Istanbu

Former Wales captain Ter Yorath played in Turkey twic during the lead-up to the 198 World Cup.

"As we ran on to the pitch were pelted with oranges an hostility continued for most of match, both on and off the fie It's no place for the faint-hea

Northern Ireland goalkeep Pat Jennings backs up Yorat claims: "The crowd was inc partisan, and made a tremen racket.

There are other aspects of visiting Turkey which could as a shock to England. Anyb hoping to pop out of the hote a quiet evening stroll, for example, could be disappoin according to Yorath.

"When we played there, v had to have an armed guard if we left the hotel.

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ENGLAND

under Bobby Robson

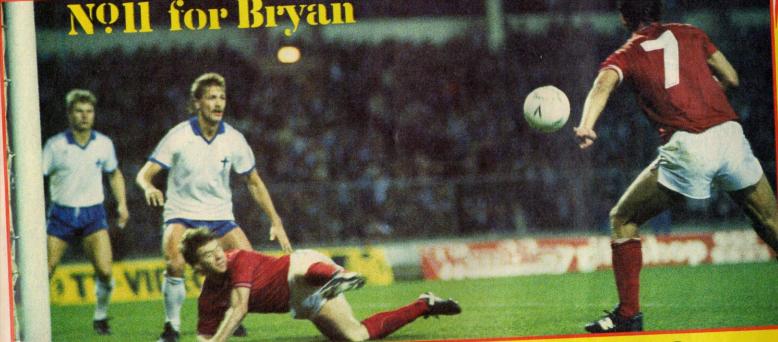
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W1-0 F Walsh
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W3-0 EC Mariner, Lee

HI Woodcock

Won: 12, Lost: 6, Drawn: 7.
Goals For: 40, Goals Against: 15.
EC — European Championships, HI — Hom nationals, F — Friendly, WC — World Cup





New faces

C ix of the team who began England's last World Cup-tie against Spain in Madrid more than two years ago were in the line-up against Finland last month.

Peter Shilton, Kenny Sansom, Terry Butcher, Ray Wilkins, Bryan Robson and Tony Woodcock all featured in England's 0-0 draw with Spain.

For the record, the line-up against Spain on July 5, 1982 was: Shilton, Mills, Sansom, Butcher, Thompson, Wilkins, Robson, Rix (Brooking), Francis, Mariner and Woodcock (Keegan)

Of those 13 players, Mick Mills and Phil Thompson have been omitted from the squad; Kevin Keegan and Trevor Brooking have retired; Graham Rix is fighting back after injury and was on the bench against Finland and Trevor Francis is still a major part of England's World Cup plans when fit.

Bobby Robson gave seven players their first taste of World Cup action in the Finland game. John Barnes, Mark Hateley, Mark Wright,

Micky Duxbury, and Steve Williams started the match at Wembley, and Gary Stevens and Mark Chamberlain were introduced as subs.



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Results and Fixtures Group 3

ENGLAND

under Bobby Robson

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W1-0 HI Woodcock
U-1 HI
D1-1 HI Woodcock
U-2 F
W2-0 F Barnes, Barnes, Hateley We-LD-2 F DD-0 F Robson W5-0 WC Hateley (2), Robson, Sansom

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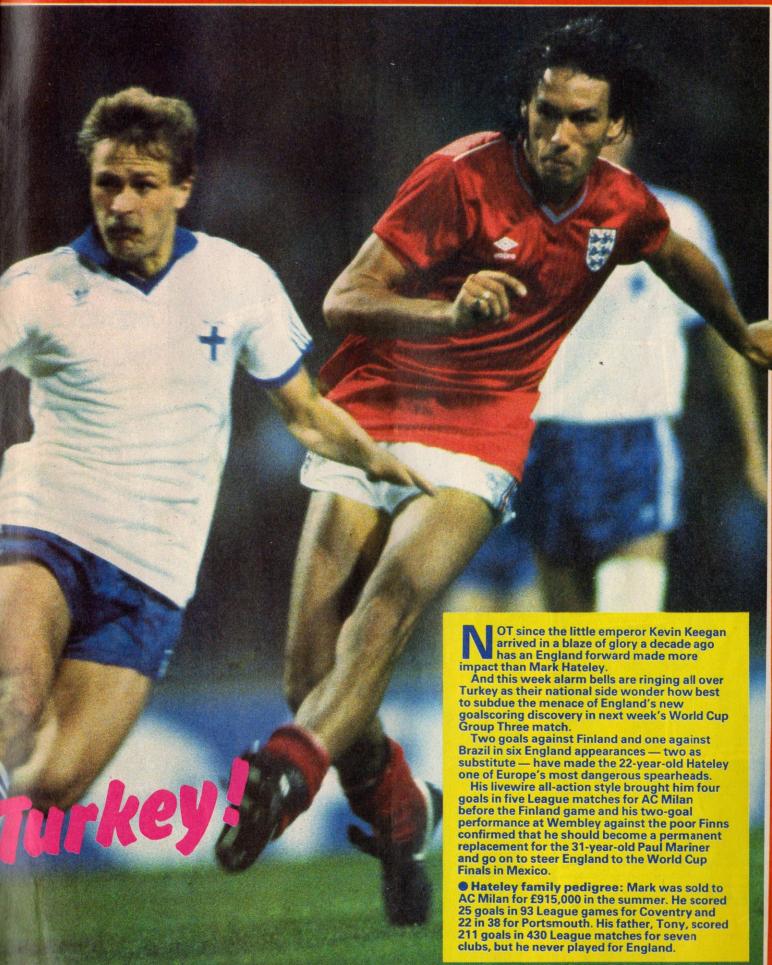
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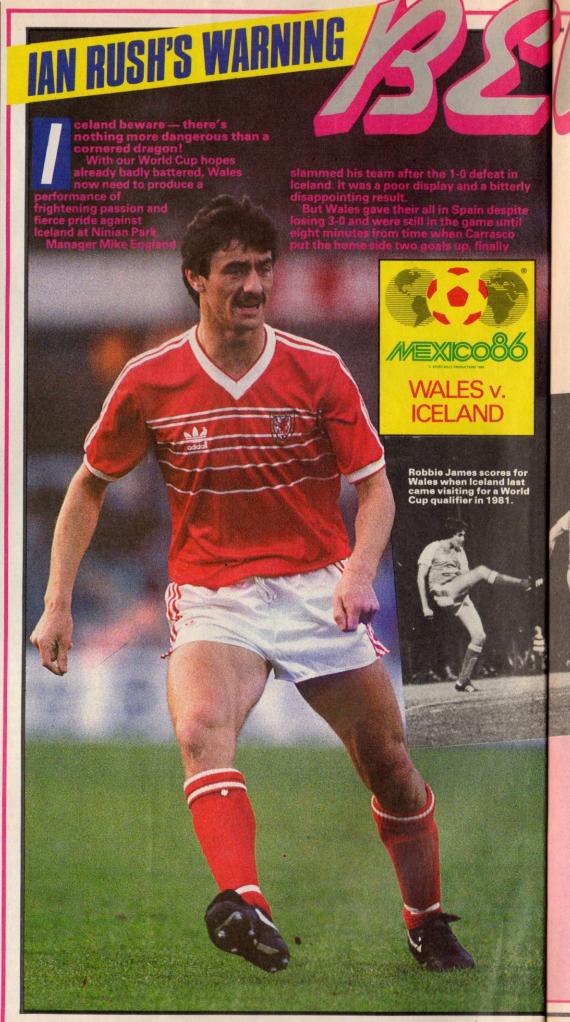


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overcoming a dazzling display of goalkeeping by Neville Southall. hand, goals are my business and there's certainly nothing wrong with Wales' It's up to us now to ensure that Neville approach work. is the least busy member of the Wales team when we play our first home World Cup tie in Group Seven.

Yes, it's looking bleak at the moment.
But let's look closer at our section. I want to add to the seven goals I've scored in 20 games for my country and I hope I can start against Iceland! I believe we can bury Iceland, shake off our nightmare start and plan for our trip to Hampden Park in March next year so that Scotland and Spain will damage each other's chances in their two games, both have yet to play in unpredictable Iceland we go looking to make it four points from four games ... three of those games having been away from home.

Now that would be a very different situation, wouldn't it? .. and, beginning with Iceland, all three have to come into the dragon's back yard. That's our chance to fan the embers and get our World Cup hopes on the move again. We have to beat Iceland and beat them convincingly because this group could go so close as goal difference.
Ideaparately want to get in on the action after missing our first two games. I'm not saying that my presence would have altered the results, but on the other SOUTHALL'S DREAD fter the terrifying hell of Seville, Neville Southall will welcome the good, old "It was frightening in Spain," he recalled: "Fans threw a whisky bottle, coins, cans and oranges at me. I told the referee but he just told me to get on fashioned raw passion of Welsh voices, raised in support with the game! of their nation, when Iceland 'That's the way things are for 'keepers these days, but I'm afraid one of us is going to lose an eye unless something is done to protect us from such mindless violence. come to Cardiff on Wednesday. Everton's goalkeeper, man-of-the-match when Wales lost 3-0 in Spain, will again wear the number one shirt when Mike England's side "Mind you, I kept my mind on the attempt to lever their backs away from game and thought we were capable of snatching a draw until they scored their second goal near the end. I look forward to playing in front of Welsh the World Cup wall. But he is confident that Wales can achieve their first win in their group and convinced that nothing can ever fans again — people who know how to be passionate without being spiteful." again unsettle him during a game.



REUSCH 115	BAILEY CLUB	DE-LUXE (BLUE)	REUSCH 129	REUSCH 125				
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SUKAN/REUSCH 115	White neoprene foam rubber	Green polyurethane	White gooved foam rubber	Elastic	B.Y.S.M.L	£11.5		
STAR/REUSCH BAILEY CLUB	White smooth foam rubber	Navy polyurethane	Green grooved foam rubber	Elastic	Y.S.M.L	£16.5		
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White dimpled foam rubber White and Red polyurethane Grey grooved foam rubber Red S Velcro B.Y.S.M.L £17.45



REUSCH 223





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Take a break it's laugh-time

seem to have been talking about football all night, darling. I hope I haven't been boring you.

A photographer was covering

WAKEY. WAKEY

a recent Port Vale home game, sitting on the touch-line nursing

The match wasn't exactly exciting and he was feeling rather tired.

His eyes closed and he fell asleep. Next thing he knew a hand was shaking his shoulder.

It was the ref. "Wake up, lad." said the man in black. "I've just awarded Port Vale a penalty at the other end. You won't want to



Pick of the postbag

Two players talking after a meeting with the manager. "I asked him to pay me what

I'm worth ... and he said he wouldn't expect me to play for Sent in by Tracey Bunce, Kimberworth, South

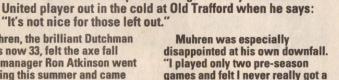
Which English goalkeeper has the longest kick in football? Gary Bailey of Manchester United because with one kick he can reach Brazil. (Alan, that is!) Sent in by Paul Turvey, Hinton-in-the-Hedges, Northants.

Tracey and Paul win SHOOT T-shirts. Please state T-shirt size (small, medium or large) when sending in your jokes.





LIVERPOOL manager Joe Fagan had a ready answer when asked what it was like to handle a team of internationals. "Oh, everyone's got a cap these days. Even me — a cloth one," he replied.



fair chance to defend my position,

RNOLD Muhren sums up the feelings of every Manchester

Muhren, the brilliant Dutchman

when manager Ron Atkinson went

home with three new players, worth

Alan Brazil, up front, was no real

Muhren admits: "It's nice for the

club to have a big squad but tough

on players left out. You try hard, of

"In the end, you realise the only

way you will get back into the side

is when the team starts losing or a

player in your position gets injured.

of those things will happen, but

"You can't go round hoping either

course, in the reserves but it is

threat. But the presence of Jesper

Olsen and Gordon Strachan in

midfield meant Muhren lost his

place and was relegated to the

shopping this summer and came

around £2 million

never the same.

who is now 33, felt the axe fall

uhren's Jisery

"How can you be happy when you are not playing? John Gidman was also left out and said he wanted to go. Arthur Graham has gone to Manchester City but I don't think I can leave until the end of the

The arrival of Jesper Olsen (below) and Gordon Strächan has meant the United axe for Arnold Muhrer

season when my contract runs out." Whether Muhren accepts the one-year extension to his contract already offered by United is doubtful. "It depends on what happens this season and whether I get back into the side," he says.

"I understand West Ham wanted to talk to me about a move, but the manager turned them down. I would have liked to have heard what they had to say, but there was no chance.

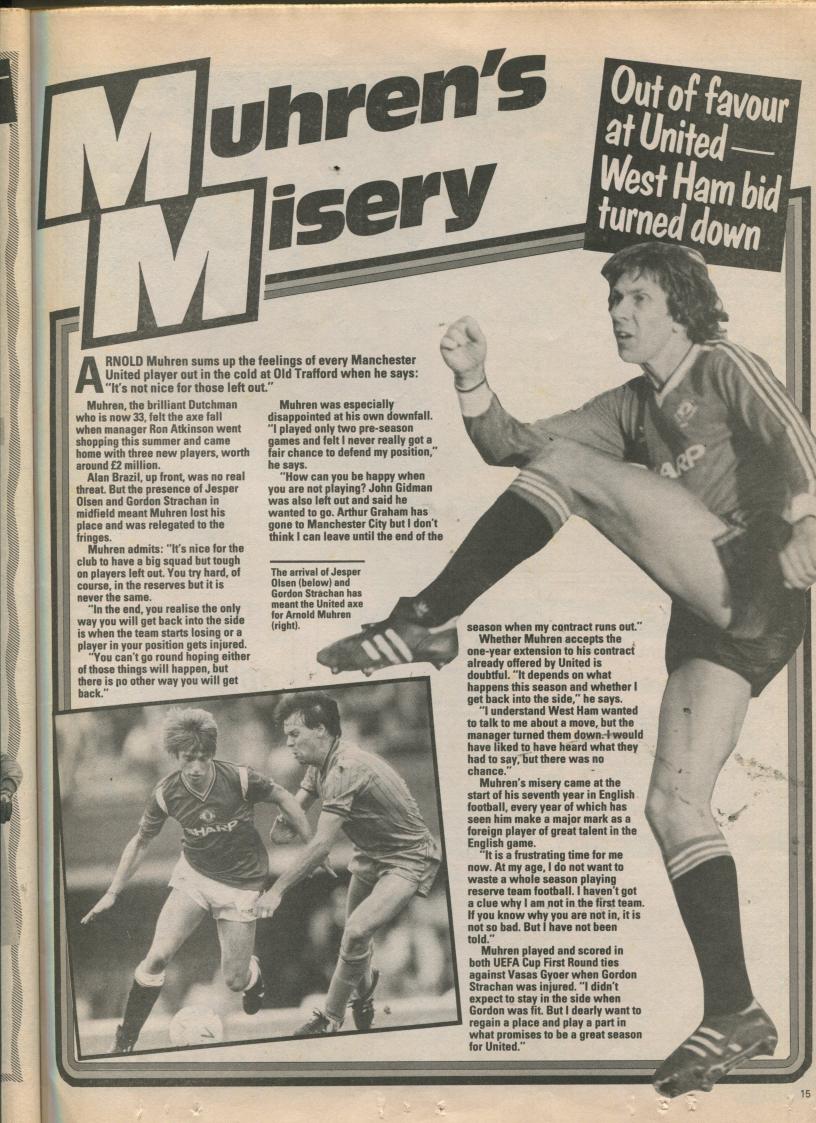
Muhren's misery came at the start of his seventh year in English football, every year of which has seen him make a major mark as a foreign player of great talent in the English game.

"It is a frustrating time for me now. At my age, I do not want to waste a whole season playing reserve team football. I haven't got a clue why I am not in the first team. If you know why you are not in, it is not so bad. But I have not been

Muhren played and scored in both UEFA Cup First Round ties against Vasas Gyoer when Gordon Strachan was injured. "I didn't expect to stay in the side when Gordon was fit. But I dearly want to regain a place and play a part in what promises to be a great season







Despite life on the dole, Mick Crooks is determined

to see Sheffield United at any

Out of work Mick hitch-hikes all over the country to see The Blades. He's seen United on 90 of the 92 League grounds — Newport and Swansea are the exceptions.

His cousin Paul Crooks is amazed at his dedication to his

"I can't believe Mick is prepared to get up at four o'clock in the morning to thumb a lift from his

home in Nottingham to see Sheffield United play at Carlisle, which he has done this season.

"Mick's home is a shrine to the Bramall Lane club. He's even named it 'The Blades'

"But the thing that sets him above other supporters is the fact that win, draw or lose he always comes home with a broad smile on

"He enjoys football so much and that is reflected in his expressions.

'Even when United were having their bad times in the Fourth Division, Mick still followed them and gave 100 per cent lovalty.



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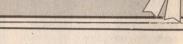
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Your reporter

CRAIG

The exciting series that takes you inside the dressing-room.

Strikers-were best!

OW that I have ceased to be the physio's best customer after all my injury problems in the past two seasons, one of the things I've noticed is the high number of promising strikers in the Premier Division.

One of the main topics of conversation in the Ibrox dressing-room just now concerns our 'Old Firm' rivals Celtic. We think they've got a problem up front - not in scoring goals, but in deciding who to leave out!

Now they have signed Maurice Johnston from Watford for £400,000, one wonders who

will prove his best striking partner.
Frank McGarvey and Brian McClair were both doing superbly at the time of Johnston's arrival and I couldn't see how they could drop either to make way for him. And Celtic also have young Alan McInally

challenging for a regular place.

I played against Johnston when he was at Partick and he struck me as a good player then. It will certainly be interesting to see how he has developed in England.

Until Johnston re-adjusts to the Scottish game, however, I'll refuse to concede that he has the edge over some of the finishing talent available at Ibrox.

Ally McCoist has learned a lot from his unhappy spell in England and turned in some superb performances this season, while lain Ferguson, despite not scoring as many goals as he would have liked, has convinced us all that they will not be long in coming.

But lain really came good with the only goal of the game in the recent Skol Cup Final against Dundee United at Hampden Park.

That one will have done wonders for his confidence and I'm sure the former Dundee striker will now go from strength to strength.

It's just up to the rest of us to provide a few more chances, as well as stopping them going in at the other end!



Jock skrewd-not rude!

NOT many people would look upon Jock Wallace as a diplomat. People who don't know him often get the impression that he is a fire-breathing ogre who terrifies his players. They couldn't be more wrong. I'm not for a minute suggesting that the boss is going soft (those legendary pre-season training stints on Gullane sands are still as tough as they have ever been), but one of the reasons for our good start to the season has been his careful handling of the players.

good start to the season has been his careful handling of the players.

He very rarely says anything on the spur of the moment after we've had a bad result — he'll take the weekend to think it over and then gives us his views on the Monday morning. He's also got us extremely fit, which is possibly why we have won a number of games in the last few minutes.

He has certainly had a big influence on me. He's tried to get me to shout more on the field, and while it comes naturally now, at the time I

yelled abuse in my direction from the other side
of the training ground.
After a couple of rollickings from Jock Wallace,
you tend to remember what he's said to you!
The curious feature of this season so far has
been our amazing defensive record. We only
conceded two goals in our first 11 Premier
Division fixtures, despite the fact that all we
practise in training are attacking moves.
Again the boss must take a lot of the credit. The
last thing he wants us to do is to go out and play

Again the boss must take a lot of the credit. The last thing he wants us to do is to go out and play defensively, but he's got everyone working together, and expects forwards to come back and do their share of defending.

With any luck our forwards will start finding the net more often in the coming weeks, but nobody — no, not even Jock Wallace — is complaining as long as we don't lose.

complaining as long as we don't lose

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BACK ROW (left to right): Robert Prytz, Derek Ferguson, Davie McFarlane, Andrew Kennedy, Davie McPherson, John McClelland, Craig Paterson, Colin McAdam, Davie Mitchell, Eric Ferguson, Stuart Munro, Robert Fleck. MIDDLE ROW: Stan Anderson (youth coach), Colin Lindsay, Billy Davies, Ian Durrant, Scott Fraser, Nicky Walker, Peter McCloy, Andrew Bruce, Hugh Burns, Davie MacKinnon, Tommy Leeman, Steven Connor, Bob Findlay (physio). FRONT ROW: Ian Redford, Ally Dawson, Iain Ferguson, Bobby Williamson, Davie Cooper, Alex Totten (coach), Jock Wallace (manager), John Hagart (reserve coach), Sandy Clark (now Hearts), Cammy Fraser, Ally McCoist, Bobby Russell, John MacDonald.



The Magnificent Seven

VE'VE got some real characters at Ibrox, seven in particular. I've had to be a bit careful about the nicknames I let out, though — the rest of the lads usually just call me "C.P." but that could change after they read this ...

Peter McCloy:
At 38, he's still in great form. His amazing fitness is an example to us all. Believe it or not he still hasn't got a proper nickname at the club.

John McClelland: Like all the Irish, he's got the gift of the gab. A great chatter in the dressing-room. Known simply as "Big John".

Ian Redford:

Never stops running, so we call him "Ready".

Robert Prytz:
Definitely the best-dressed member of the side —
anyone wanting advice on fashion goes straight to
Prytzie.

lain Ferguson: Scored the winner against Dundee United in the Skol Cup Final and already a hit with the Ibrox fans.

Known as "Fergie" — not very original I know, but we're working on a replacement!

Ally McCoist:
Life and soul of the dressing-room — if anything happens in the club he is usually at the bottom of it. In his role as team prankster he has been known to nail other players' boots to the floor. Future Rangers signings beware!

Davie Cooper:
Unbelievable player who has been misunderstood in the past because of his reluctance to talk to the Press. "Coop", as we know him, is the quiet man of the side.



Two goals
against
Iceland – but
I'm not
sure of a
place!

WILL believe I am playing against Spain at Hampden Park on Wednesday only when I see my name on the team-sheet!

People have been telling me I am a certainty to play after my two goals against Iceland last month, but I never take anything for granted. Possibly the boss, Jock

Possibly the boss, Jock
Stein, will want to change
things around a bit. Anyway,
there's so much competition
for a midfield place that it
would be foolish to expect to
walk into this current Scotland
team.

Take a look at the talented players who didn't play against Iceland. Gordon Strachan and John Wark sat i out on the bench and Barcelona's Steve Archibald and SV Hamburg's Mark McGhee were in the stand.

We all know that the Spaniards have some high-quality players, but I'm sure Steve Archibald will be able to clue us up on most of them.

I prefer to talk about the Scottish players, the colleagues who have helped me so much since my international debut against Uruguay last year.

What can I say about skipper Graeme Souness that hasn't already been said? He was outstanding against Iceland, continually driving us forward and hitting passes that defy description.

Kenny Dalglish (left) and Charlie Nicholas (right) will both have a big part to play against the Spaniards.



And what about my first two goals for the senior side? Great credit must go to Rangers winger Davie Cooper for the opening effort.

He made the running down the left, sent over a magnificent cross and I only had to let it bounce off my head to beat the 'keeper.

Spectacular

The second was a bit more spectacular and I must admit the shot felt good when it left my boot from about 25 yards.

Before the game my father had told me to have a dig when I saw an opening. When I came through from midfield I saw the gap and decided to give the ball a belt.

I came so close to my first hat-trick in the second-half with another long range effort that slammed off the crossbar.

I'm sure there will be a sell-out 74,000 crowd for the Spanish game and it would be wonderful to send our marvellous supporters home in a happy mood again.

Paul WStay



HE'LL MURDER ANY SIDE ANY SIDE GORDILLO RAFAEL GORDILLO

IGUEL Munoz's Spanish terriers travel to Hampden determined to snap at Scottish heels, bite hard on the break and claw at least a draw from the Group Seven crunch game.

the Group Seven crunch game.

Key man is goalkeeper Luis Arconada, measuring up for his 64th cap. "He's a bit special," mused Terry Venables after an incredible reflex save during Barcelona's draw with Real Sociedad: "He only looked hesitant against crosses driven along the six-yard line. A great 'keeper."

'Butcher of Bilbao' Andoni Goicoechea may grab the headlines, but the key performer in the Spanish defence is Gijon sweeper Antonio Maceda. "Easily the most complete defender in Spain," says

"Easily the most complete defender in Spain," says Mallorca striker Gerry Armstrong: "Through being tall, blond and unbeatable in the air he's nicknamed 'El Ingles'—and there's nothing he'd like better than to beat the Scots at Hampden."

Rafael Gordillo runs the show in Spain's midfield. The 27-year-old Footballer of the Year is undisputed idol of Seville and has been valued at £2.5 million. "He'll murder any side, if he's allowed to run the left touchline and get in those curling left-foot crosses. He's simply brilliant," says Armstrong.

And watch out for 21-year-old Emilio Butragueno — the Mark Hateley of Spanish soccer who's been rushed into the national side after just 15 games with Real Madrid.

Nicknamed 'The Vulture', he not only devours anything that goes begging, but also sets up chances for fellow strikers — either Carrasco or Gordillo's Betis team-mate 'Poli' Rincon.

After years in Dundee United's Shadow

ayside derby clashes may not attract the huge audiences who are enthralled by the inter-city battles in London. Manchester, Liverpool or Glasgow... but in terms of passion they compare more than favourably.

Dens Park and Tannadice, are no more than a long goal-kick apart and over the years the pendulum of power has swung firmly towards

But Dundee, who have had to sit back in awe of United's success at home and in Europe in recent seasons, are now ready to challenge their neighbours for the title Tops on Tayside.

Under the guidance of former **United player Archie Knox they** have put a nightmare start to the campaign behind them and emerged as one of Scotland's most improved sides.

Knox lost his two best players midfield man Cammy Fraser and striker lain Ferguson — to Rangers under freedom of contract but has spent the £350,000 received for the pair to provide all-round reinforcement to his squad.

His line-up now bears little resemblance to that inherited from previous boss Donald Mackay last season but he had to wait several weeks for his new signings to pay dividends.

Dundee were anchored at the foot of the Premier Division without a point in four games when they crossed the road in September to tackle United. And what happened that day has the Dark Blue fans relishing the visit of The Tangerines for the return fixture.

Three times Dundee stunned United by taking the lead. But on each occasion the home side hauled themselves back into the game to pull level.

Dramatic

Then new boy John Brown, who once scored a hat-trick from the left-back position for his previous club Hamilton Accies, netted a dramatic late winner.

Manager Knox beams: "It was the way we won 4-3, rather than the victory itself, that gave me so much satisfaction. It was no fluke. Scoring four goals at Tannadice was a tremendous boost.

"But I refuse to allow anyone to get too carried away by that performance. I'm the first to admit it

will take quite a few derby wins before we can compare ourselves with United. With their record, we still have a long way to go."

Knox is encouraged, however, by the way his new signings have settled in. "They have done far better than we were really entitled to expect," he says, "because it is never easy adjusting from part-time football.

We have started to claw back at what United have achieved and obviously another win over them on our own ground would keep it

Over at Tannadice, however, they are after instant revenge.

International striker Paul Sturrock warns: "Our record at Dens Park is unbelievable. We've won two League Cups there and clinched the Championship there in 1983. No wonder we look upon it as our second home!

"Dundee had a tremendous will to win against us in September and knocked us out of our stride. At the same time, I think we went out over-confident of winning and suffered for it.

"There will be no repeat this time. Our League form has been disappointing, in any case, and we simply can't afford to drop any more points.

The Tannadice star looks forward to derby day and adds: "The whole place is buzzing. For 90 minutes it's a case of all or nothing as far as the fans are concerned and the players can feel the pressure.

"From my own point of view I want to see both clubs doing well. It would be great, for example, if we were both in Europe. But obviously United need to be the number one team on Tayside.

"I'd like to see Dundee finish as League runners-up and beaten in the Scottish Cup Final — by United



PIT your wits against our quiz master and his stopwatch. Beat the time limit on each section — and check your rating. Genius — 5 out of 5; Excellent — 4 out of 5; Good — 3 out of 5.

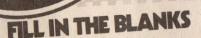
Beat the clock,

Paul Sturrock

Which one of the following players is not the recognised penalty-taker for his club?

Gordon Strachan (Man. United), Paul Mariner (Arsenal), John Deehan (right, Norwich City) or Steve Lynex (Leicester City).

3 mins



Peter ---- was recently transferred from ---- to Coventry City for £65,000. This former West Bromwich Albion and ----international began his career with -----



UBLEA MUNUERR

The following players all scored winning goals in F.A. Cup Finals. Their opponents are in brackets ... for which clubs were they playing?

1. Alan Sunderland (v Man. United) 2. Ian Porterfield (v Leeds United)

10 mins

3. Roger Osborne (v Arsenal) 4. Jimmy Greenhoff (v Liverpool)

SPOT THE DIFFERENCE

Our artist has made ten changes to the reproduction. Can you find them?



1. Queens Park Rangers signed which two players from Stoke City and York City in the same

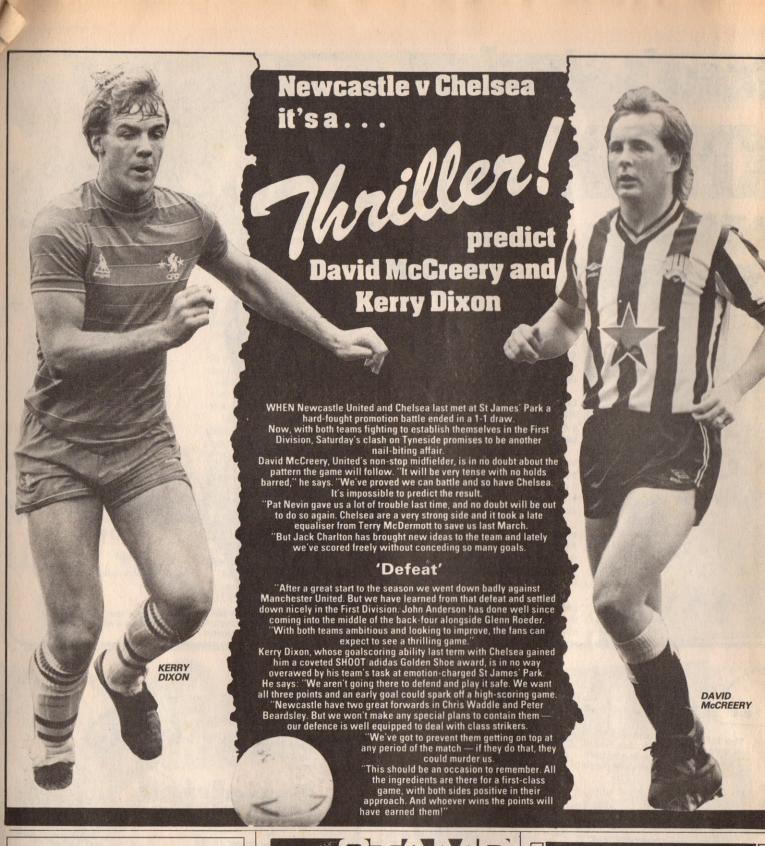
2. Another player on the move was Steve Biggins. He was transferred from Oxford United to which Third Division club?

3. Which player made his full international debut for England when he appeared as a second-half substitute against Finland in the recent World Cup qualifier at Wembley?

4. Henry Smith (right) plays in goal for which Scottish Premier Divisio



ANSWERS ON PAGE



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Italy's cheek

How dare the Italians claim the credit for the international performances of Mark Hateley and Ray Wilkins. They were good players before they ever left England.

JONATHAN WILKINS, DORKING, SURREY.

OK, so Wilkins had enjoyed a superb season before he left Manchester United for AC Milan. But Hateley has been

brought on tremendously by the Italians. He wouldn't have achieved half of what he has done this season if he'd still been in the Second Division with Portsmouth Hateley himself would be the first to

of the week



Joe Fagan (above) should resign as Liverpool boss before he ruins a great team. His signings have all been poor ones and one look at their League position proves how badly he is running the team.

EHSAN RIAAZ DILMAHOMED,

PORT-LOUIS, MAURITIUS.

Even by Liverpool's standards, last season's achievement of three top trophies was something special. You can't write off a boss because of a bad start to the season, especially one who contributed so much to the success of Bill Shankly and Bob Paisley. Actually, I'm not at all bothered by Liverpool's poor spell
— it's about time they had one! I still reckon they'll be up among the honours by the end of the season.



Championship you need strength in depth and that's why I confidently predict that Arsenal will not stay at the top of the table. Their squad isn't strong enough.



What is even more important than strength in depth is an injury-free season, and that's

never legislate. Liverpool struggled without lan Rush and Manchester United can't do without Bryan Robson. It you rely so much on key players, it really doesn't matter how good your back-up squad is. Arsenal won't be able to cope if they lose Mariner and Woodcock at the same time. But if The Gunners can avoid the knocks. they'll be up there challenging.

something for which you can



You're a coward!

After Rotherham manager George Kerr had bravely spoken out against the mindless racist thugs in On The Ball, I thought your sit-on-the-fence remarks were typical of a sport too ready to ignore colour prejudice. Dare you print

> REG MOORE, BRIGHTON, SUSSEX.

Listen, mate, I never set on the fence, but I feel this whole question is being blown out of

all proportion. I have never condoned racial prejudice, nor will I. But black players have got to realise they're not the only ones to take stick from the crowd. I wasn't exactly the most popular man in the world when I played in front of 120,000 Scotsmen at Hampden Park. Any player who can't take abuse from the crowd shouldn't be in the game.

My dream tackle

Red tops

I'm sick of people calling Manchester

game at Villa, United were beaten 3-0. It's a poor reflection that

one man should have so much influence on such an expensive side, but that's the way it is. As the new players

United a one-man team. Even without Bryan Robson they're still the best in the

Even with Robson they took a right pasting at Everton. But when he missed the

STUART CAMPBELL,

My dad claims he once saw you winning a 50-50 tackle with Norman Hunter while playing for West Ham against Leeds. Can DAVE SMITH, SHEFFIELD.



That's incredible. I've had exactly the same dream!

maestro make you a better player. Curling corners

Let the former West Ham and England

OHN BARNES had a good game for England against Finland, but at times his corner-kicks let him down.

His crosses tended to hang in the air, making it easy for defenders to clear the ball.

Once or twice John dropped a corner short. It's not ideal, but better that than to hit the ball accurately but too softly.

His short crosses created more problems for the

opposition. I took the corner-kicks for West Ham and England and always tried to whip the ball towards the near post, making sure it was six inches to a foot above head height to

Apart from the kicker perfecting his crosses, you need players on the receiving end with the courage to challenge for the ball, get a

enable our attackers to get a



header in at goal or a touch on to a team-mate.

Quite often it's the second header that baffles defenders

For England I always · looked for the head of Terry Butcher, who was a good target to aim for at the near



Gerald Cox of Phoenix Lodge Mansions, Brook Green, Hammersmith, London W6 writes: "Last season I played so well I was made captain.

"But this season I've lost form completely. Should I ask to be relieved of the captaincy?"

IF you really feel the extra responsibility of being captain has affected your form, I would step

But remember all players go through a period of loss of form and you might be looking for

Keep playing for a while before making the decision. If you suddenly start playing well again you could regret giving up the job.

Gerald wins a SHOOT T-shirt. You'll get one too if your letter is published in my column. Please state T-shirt size (small, medium or large) when writing to me.

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nidfield player says: "H's nidfield player myself to hinch myself to have to pinch myself to

nares have turned into today's





should have been an opportunity to build a powerful base for qualification.

But once again they flopped away from home, losing a scrappy game 1-0 to moderate Norway.

to moderate Norway.
With only three World Cup wins away from home in 50 years, Ireland know they must now produce a performance of real quality in Copenhagen on Wednesday against high-flying Denmark ... or fall behind in the race for Mexico.

Manager Eoin Hand must take a share of the blame for dropping Micky Walsh, whose goal sank Russia, in favour of Manchester United striker Frank Stapleton who, by his own admission, lacked sharpness.

"I missed the start of the season with a knee injury and had played only one game, a Milk Cup-tie against Burnley, before playing in Oslo," said Frank. "But that's not sufficient excuse for the way we failed.

'Problem'

"I don't know why we are such poor travellers. We cannot put our finger on the problem. Just look at the quality of the side — yet we keep slipping up. "We have not lost a competitive game in Dublin for 12 years because we play with a cavalier style and respond to our incredible fans.

"But once we leave Irish soil we freeze up and splutter through poor performances.

"But it's a bit early to start writing us off, for heaven's sake! We have six games left — the first this week in Denmark, a place I remember with great pleasure.

"We drew 3-3 there in a European Championship match back in 1978 and I scored.

"By the way, they lost 1-0 in Switzerland the night we lost in Norway. So nobody's actually romping away in this group just yet — certainly not Russia!

"This will be my 40th cap if selected, and I'll go out as skipper. It's 12 months since I scored for Ireland so perhaps I can end that run in what will be a very important game for us.

"We have the players, but our fate will be decided by how well we cope with our remaining away games."

esper Olsen, Manchester
United's dazzling little Dane,
is not looking forward to
playing against Frank
Stapleton in Copenhagen!

"It is very good to line up alongside Frank for United," says Olsen, "but facing him in a World Cup-tie of this importance is another matter."

Team-mates at Old Trafford, the big Republic of Ireland striker and the slightlybuilt Danish will-o-the-wisp will be enemies for 90 minutes on Wednesday night.

"Frank is the type of forward who can turn a game because he has the ability in both head and feet. He is brave, strong, makes and takes chances and leads a forward line with great intelligence.

"He has missed a lot of games through injury this season, but now he has a few under his belt and he is getting sharper by the day.

"Denmark and Ireland both travel badly — our game in Switzerland was a mirror of Ireland's in Oslo. We both had the edge, both had lots of the ball, both failed to penetrate and both lost by a goal scored just before half-time!

"A draw is useless for both of us now. We must win our home games above all else and they have a terrible away record which they must end before it becomes a big thing mentally — a block to their hopes of Mexico.

thing mentally — a block to their hopes of Mexico.

"But having said that, Russia's poor start could give both of us the chance to qualify. Frank and I would travel well to South America. Maybe we will be able to joke about that ... after this particular international!"

32

missed against West Ham. I missed against Nottingham Forest. And I missed against Leicester, But I haven't given up taking penalties for Arsenal!

Because although I've currently lost the job of spot-kicker to Brian Talbot, I'd still be willing to step forward if Noddy doesn't fancy his chances.

Hopefully that situation will never arise, because as long as he's tucking them away I'm quite happy to be out of a job.

The same goes for Tony Woodcock, who scored one spot-kick against Stoke but failed with his next against Bristol Rovers in the Milk Cup.

Not that I've missed every penalty I've ever taken for Arsenal! I scored five times from the spot last season and also put one away against Everton last month.

Nor am I the only player in the First Division this season to have missed out.

For instance, on the same day as my effort against Leicester was saved by Mark Wallington, Everton's Adrian Heath, Eric Gates of Ipswich and Coventry's Kenny Hibbitt also failed. And even Sheffield Wednesday's Mel Sterland, who's one of the best penalty men in the business, had one saved at Coventry the other week.

Struck

The reason why so many penalties are being missed has got to be because keepers are getting away with moving before the ball is struck.

Not that I can really blame them. Unless they go early, a 'keeper has got absolutely

So it's up to referees to crack down on this offence, because it's now getting to the stage where the odds at a penalty are almost in a 'keeper's favour.

I certainly believe the time has come for me to change my technique.

I've always tried to place my spot-kicks just inside the post, but with 'keepers now moving so early they're almost certain to save if they guess the right way.

So maybe I should just try to blast the ball as hard as possible, in the same manner as West Ham's Ray Stewart.

Both Phil Parkes and Mark Wallington moved early when they saved my

I blame refs'



Even penalty king Mel Sterland (right) missed from the spot a couple

penalties, and both were able to push the ball against the post and snap up the

Of the two, Wallington's was the better save. I'd hit what I thought was the perfect penalty, whereas against West Ham I didn't strike the ball quite hard enough and just a little too high.

My miss against Nottingham Forest was the only time I've completely missed the target. It was so wide it was almost unbelievable

There's terrible pressure on someone





taking a penalty. Can you imagine playing at somewhere like Old Trafford or Anfield with only a couple of minutes to go and 50,000 fans urging you to miss.

It's the worst feeling in the world, and suddenly the goalkeeper looks about eight feet tall and six feet wide!

That's just how I felt when I took my very first spot-kick, for Celtic against Airdrie.

Shouting

It was only my fourth game for the club, and we were losing 1-0 at Parkhead with five minutes to go. We were awarded a penalty and the next thing I knew was that

everyone was shouting at me to take it. Luckily, I scored. And in four years of taking penalties for Celtic I only failed

I'd love to take a penalty for Scotland against Spain at Hampden Park next Wednesday. But then again, I'd just love to be playing!

My last three international caps have all been won as a substitute, and it's 17 months since I last started a game for my

But after two great results against Yugoslavia and Iceland, I expect Jock Stein will stick with the same team.



ST * R WRITER

NICHOLAS

I'll just be happy to be part of the squa and hope I can get a chance to do my st at some stage of the game.

And if that means taking a spot-kick against Senor Arconada, I'll be only too

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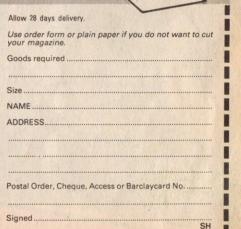
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SHORTS



ame refs'



SLOWIS

ST *R WRITER CHARLIE NICHOLAS

29th August v
Forest

taking a penalty. Can you imagine playing at somewhere like Old Trafford or Anfield with only a couple of minutes to go and 50,000 fans urging you to miss.

It's the worst feeling in the world, and suddenly the goalkeeper looks about eight feet tall and six feet wide!

That's just how I felt when I took my very first spot-kick, for Celtic against Airdrie.

Shouting

It was only my fourth game for the club, and we were losing 1-0 at Parkhead with five minutes to go. We were awarded a penalty and the next thing I knew was that everyone was shouting at me to take it.

Luckily, I scored. And in four years of

Luckily, I scored. And in four years of taking penalties for Celtic I only failed

I'd love to take a penalty for Scotland against Spain at Hampden Park next Wednesday. But then again, I'd just love to be playing!

My last three international caps have all

been won as a substitute, and it's 17 months since I last started a game for my country.

But after two great results against Yugoslavia and Iceland, I expect Jock Stein will stick with the same team.



I'll just be happy to be part of the squad and hope I can get a chance to do my stuff at some stage of the game.

And if that means taking a spot-kick against Senor Arconada, I'll be only too

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Cyrille Regis

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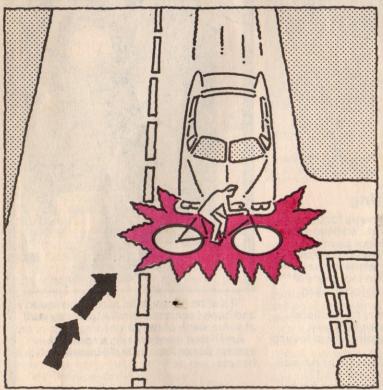
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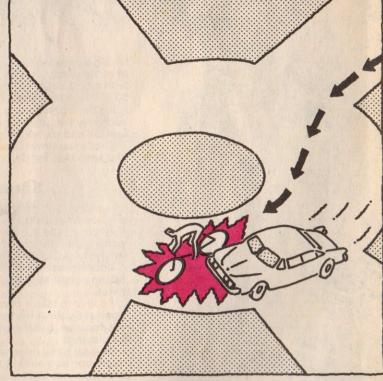
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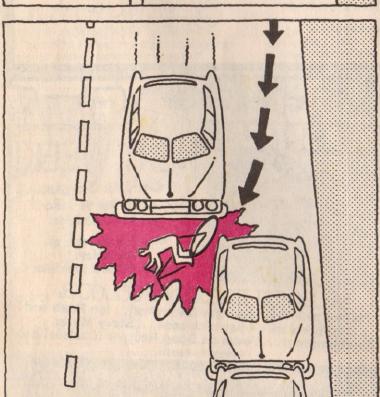
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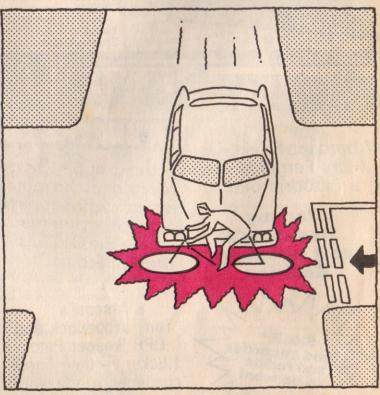
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CYCLISTS: CONCENTRATE. LOOK ROUND. ALWAYS SIGNAL CLEARLY.



Wednesday's fast and direct style will fail at Loftus Road is making a dangerous mistake. I know how they play and I reckon we are in for a cracking

Warrington-born Bannister, 24, began his career with Coventry City in May, 1978, but after three goals in 22 appearances - and England Under 21 honours — he was snapped up by Jack Charlton in 1980 and signed a three-year contract for Wednesday.

"I enjoyed my time there very much," he said. "We came close to going up more than once before finally cracking it. It was important for the city and for the supporters who followed us through thick and thin.

"Playing for Wednesday mproved my game, sharpened my fitness and gave me great confidence in front of goal. I owe them a lot and I have many good friends there.

'People wonder why I left, and why they allowed me to eave, considering my record of 55 League goals in 118 games. But there was no argument, no animosity. I simply decided

that, with my contract expired, it was time for a change.

The first thing I noticed was the difference in playing style. At Wednesday it was very muc an all-round team effort, everyone grafting and sharing roles. Forwards defended, defenders attacked, we'd all ge behind the ball in a crisis and defy the opposition to break us

'Rangers play it more slowly and tend to create scoring chances for the strikers to accept. It's more clear cut in terms of specific roles. Not that we work any less, but I have more time to concentrate on out-and-out goalscoring now

And scoring is Bannister's speciality. His consistency in League, Milk Cup and UEFA Cup brought him 14 goals in his first 16 games for Rangers!

Excellent

Bannister believes Wednesday's excellent start must not be underestimated and warns that they could go a the way to the top.

"You don't win at places like Anfield in the style Wednesday achieved by being short-term successes. I feel convinced they will be challenging for a place i Europe and we've got to beat

them to it.
"I'll be having a quiet word
with Alan Mullery just in case
there's any hints I can give for
our preparation. But then I can expect little room or mercy from former mates such as Mike Lyons, Mark Smith or Mel Sterland

"I reckon I'm in for a day to



'So anyone who thinks

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ANSWERS FILL IN THE BLANKS.

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WEMBLEY WINNERS. 1. Arsenal. 2. Sunderland, 3. Ipswich Town, 4. Manchester United.

PENALTY KINGS. Paul Mariner.

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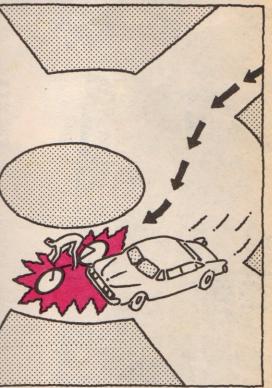
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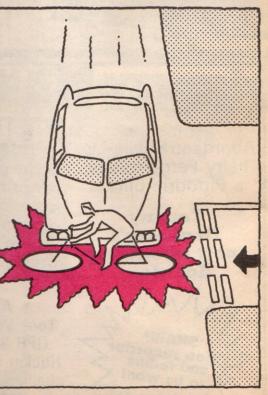




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"I reckon I'm in for a day to remember."



playing surface. When I played here for Wednesday a few years ago it was hard and fast. But this new carpet stops the ball

running through to the 'keeper and it caught our lads out a few

times in the early games.

"So anyone who thinks

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N. IRELAND **V FINLAND**

Finland's hard-pressed defence could be in for another tough time.

HEN Finland visit Windsor Park,
Belfast on Wednesday (14th
November), they can expect a
backlash from Northern Ireland.
That's the prediction from striker
Billy Hamilton who, like his

team-mates, is still feeling the shock of the 1-0 defeat by the Finns in Pori last May.

"I just can't explain it. It was a disaster for us. We didn't play at all and paid the price," says the Oxford United striker

United striker.

But Hamilton, one of Northern Ireland's World Cup
heroes in Spain two years ago, believes that Finland
can expect nothing like the easy ride

they got when the two sides met for the first time.

"We are even more determined to win and win well this time around. I predicted that England would score four or five against Finland and I think we can give them the same treatment this time.

"Any pride that took a blow in

"Any pride that took a blow in Finland was restored when we beat Rumania 3-2 in Belfast, and now the team spirit is as good as when we went to Spain."

Returning to Windsor Park is a special pleasure for the Oxford United striker, for it was here that he began his



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BUY WECO IVECO COLA SO ST

at

career with Linfield.

"It's a happy hunting ground for us," he says. "The support is always good, and after playing in one World Cup Finals, I'm determined to make it for a second."

One concern, however, is that after their 5-0 drubbing at Wembley last month, Finland could come to Belfast and put a blockade in front of goal.

"They got a buzz out of beating us, but after their defeat by England, they'll have five or six men back to try and stop us."

That could prove a problem for the

That could prove a problem for the big, bearded striker who can't seem to find his scoring form for his country.

Striker

Since moving from Burnley to Oxford in August, the striker has been a hit with the Second Division club.

Yet he hasn't scored a goal for
Northern Ireland for more than a year,
his last coming against Austria in
September, 1983.
"It's terrible, I know. I don't really
know why I'm not scoring goals for my
country. It's maybe because I play a bit
deeper for Northern Ireland than I do

for Oxford, and there are not as many chances created in international football. But that's no excuse, and I'm hoping that I can put the record straight when Finland come to Belfast."

Belfast."

Hamilton was one of a group of experienced players left out for the friendly against Israel, a match Ireland won 3-0. But he's not complaining. "It's got to be a good thing for Northern Ireland. It was a good move on the manager's part and the victory showed that we have a lot of capable youngsters coming through.

"Playing in Spain was an experience of a lifetime. The lads couldn't believe how well we did and they want to enjoy that kind of experience again. "With youngsters such as Steve Penney, Nigel Worthington, Paul Ramsey and Jimmy Quinn coming through, the future has got to look good."

what, then, of Northern Ireland's hopes for Mexico?

"It's a three-horse race between ourselves, England and Rumania. If we can win all our home games then I fancy ourselves for another trip to the World Cup Finals."

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on Field Wednesday

Steffield Wednesday

Previous clubs: None. I've been at Wednesday since I left school.
Team you supported as a boy:
Sheffield Wednesday.
Football hero of childhood: Even though I followed Wednesday, the Leeds defender Norman Hunter was

my favourite player.

Favourite current player: Liverpool's Mark Lawrenson. He always looks so cool and is equally at home in defence or midfield — the complete

player.

Full name: Mark Craig Smith.
Birthplace and date: I was born in Sheffield on March 21, 1960.
Height and weight: Six foot. 13st. 3lbs.
Married: To Kim. Our first child is due on January 17, 1985.
Home: A two bedroomed detached cottage on the outskirts of Sheffield.
Car: Fiat Regata S.
Nickname: Like everyone called Smith, I've been nicknamed 'Smudger'.

Superstitions: There's not enough space to list them all!
International honours: Six England Under-21 caps.
Club honours: Promotion from the

Third Division in 1980 and from the Second Division in 1984.

Favourite other sports: Tennis and athletics. Most of the summer I was glued to the TV watching Wimbledon and the Olympics.

Favourite other sports person: Wimbledon winner John McEnroe. Hobbies: Collecting antiques.

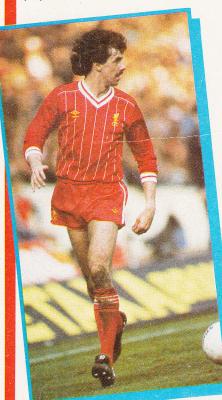
Favourite actor and actress: Dustin Hoffman and Fave Dunaway.

Hoffman and Faye Dunaway.

Ambitions for 1984-85: To win something with Wednesday.

Long-term ambitions: To play in the next World Cup Finals with England and to gain security for my family.

1/k/CDSQ



Mark Lawrenson

Most memorable match: Beating Sheffield United 4-0 at Hillsborough on Boxing Day, 1979. Even though it was a Third Division game, there were more than 49,000 there that day. I scored our last goal from the penalty spot.

Biggest disappointment: Missing last season's promotion run-in because of injury.

Favourite TV show: Only Fools and Horses.

Favourite musician: George Benson.

Biggest influence on career: My dad, who taught me never to settle for second best.



